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As we honor the efforts of the American military service members on our behalf, there is a special organized effort to express thanks. Again this year, the American Red Cross and Pitney Bowes Inc. are sponsoring the “Holiday Mail for Heroes” program, which gathers Christmas and holiday cards from people across America to deliver to U.S. military members.

If you wish to learn more and participate, review the program guidelines below (for more detailed information, visit <http://www.redcross.org/holidaymail>).

Holiday Mail for Heroes
PO Box 5456
Capitol Heights, MD 20791-5456

To ensure your card will reach a service member, you should follow these guidelines:

- All cards must be postmarked no later than Wednesday, December 10, 2010
 - If sending more than one card, mail all the cards together in one large shipping envelope.
- Cards sent in this manner do not need individual envelopes or postage
- All cards should be signed
 - Use generic salutations such as “Dear Service Member, Family, or Veteran”
 - Do not include personal information, like email or home addresses
 - Do not send letters
 - Do not include inserts of any kind, including photos, glitter, confetti, gift cards or calling cards. Any items inserted into cards will be removed during the reviewing process

Thousands of American military service members will spend this holiday season in foreign countries, away from family and friends and the comfort and joy of their homes. By participating in this program, you can help bring the holidays a little closer to home for our military personnel. It may seem like a small gesture, but your message this holiday season offers a reminder to our soldiers of the great respect we have for their work and the love and support they have from Americans back home.